

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 15 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 12-14, 16, 17, and 18 have been amended.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawing for a minor informality. Accordingly, Applicant proposes adding the legend "Prior Art" in Figure 1 as illustrated in the enclosed sheet. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 13 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stockstad (US 6,366,167). However, the Examiner also stated that claims 15 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim,

but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 12 and 18 to include all of the limitations in claims 15 and 19, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that claims 12 and 18 as amended are not anticipated by Stockstad. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 13 and 20 depend from claims 12 and 18, respectively, and thus, claims 13 and 20 are not anticipated by Stockstad for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claims 12 and 18. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

The Examiner also stated that claims 14-17 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 14 and 17 to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from the now allowable claim 12, and thus, claim 16 is allowable for at least this reason. Allowance of claims 14, 16, and 17 is earnestly solicited.

Allowed Claims

Applicant has noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has indicated claims 1-11 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

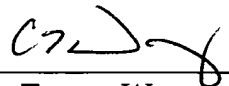
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Teresa Wong at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

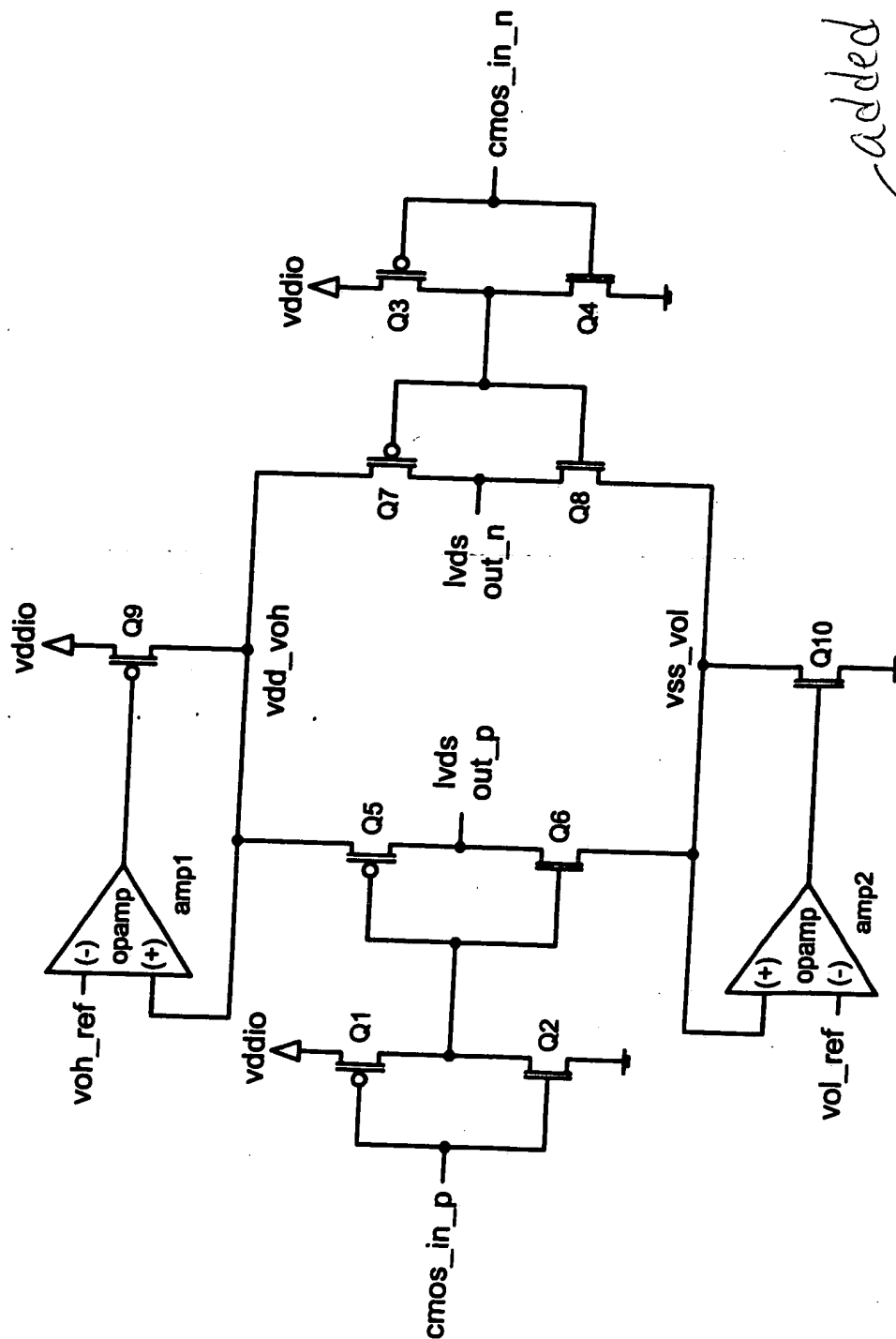
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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added

Figure 1 (Prior Art)